

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, 8, 17-23 and 25-30 are all the claims presently pending in this application. Claims 2, 17, 21, 23 and 26 have been amended to more particularly define the claimed invention. Claims 27-30 have been added to claim additional features of the claimed invention. Claim 25 have been previously withdrawn from examination. Claims 1, 5 and 7 have been canceled.

The amendments and new claims 27-30 raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner thereby preventing the issuance of a First Action After-Final Rejection.

It is noted that the amendments are made only to more particularly define the invention and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, for narrowing the scope of the claims, or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability. It is further noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Application No. 10/813,054
Docket No. F05-169600M/MKO

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FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

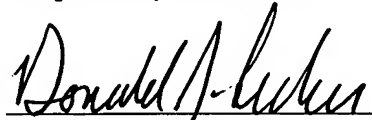
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 2, 6, 8, 17-23 and 25-30, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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